

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SECURITY INFORMATION

TOPIC Miscellaneous Railroad Information

CONFIDENTIAL

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 25 September 1951

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

50X1-HUM

1.

[REDACTED] it was announced that owing to the poor condition of tracks in the Soviet Zone the speed limits had to be reduced. Up to now the Soviet Zone railroad system had been able to maintain operations by using up old material. This was no longer possible and the rails manufactured at the VVB Maschinenbau in Unterwellenborn had proved to be utterly unusable. [REDACTED] furthermore [REDACTED]

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

[REDACTED] switches were a critical item too. (1) It was also announced that trains on the Forst-Guben railroad line, which was reconstructed from pieces of rails welded together, could be operated at a maximum speed of only 30 km/h because the rails would break near the joints. (2)

2.

[REDACTED] the issuing of tickets to and from the railroad stations listed below were to be suspended immediately:

Neumuehle on the Elster River	Zeulenroda
Berga " " "	Triebes
Greiz	Hoheleuben
Greiz-Auhachthal	Schneppitz
Greiz-Doelau	Loitsch-Hohenleuben
Mohlsdorf (sic)	Boellwitz

[REDACTED] these railroad stations were located near mines operated by the Wismut A.G. (3)

50X1-HUM

3.

4. On 18 and 19 August the regional railroad headquarters in Berlin ordered

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

24 JAN 1978

SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

that checks on the suitability of gondola cars for transit use be accelerated and that all such cars capable of transit operations be dispatched to Frankfurt/Oder immediately. (4)

50X1-HUM

5.

50X1-HUM

It had been ordered that all gondola cars suitable for transit operations were to be turned over in Frankfurt/Oder by 10 a.m. on 29 August. It was later ordered by telephone that this operation was extended until 8 September. (4)

Comments.

50X1-HUM

- (1) This information throws significant light on the difficult material supply situation of the Soviet Zone Railroads. The poor quality of the rails produced at the Maxhütte, the only rolling mill in the Soviet Zone, was reported previously.
- (2) The reconstruction of this single-track railroad line was reported previously.
- (3) The railroad stations mentioned are on the Gera-Greiz-Plauen and Gera-Zeulenroda-Plauen railroad lines, in the area north of Plauen. They are located in the western section in the uranium ore mining district. Similar measures were previously reported in connection with the eastern portion of this district.
- (4) Empty gondola cars have been dispatched to the east since June 1951 with sporadic interruptions. The cars are used for the delivery of raw materials to Soviet Zone industrial plants. According to Soviet Zone railroad standards, a car is suitable for transit operations if its measurements, condition and operational safety are up to international railroad regulations and thus may be used outside its home country. Suitability for transit use, in this context, does not require a conversion of the gauge.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY